HEALTH
GTA JUN 58

Library

BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1957.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1957.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	2392.4
Population - Census 1951	3,151
Registrar-General's estimate of home population mid 1957 ...	3,290
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1957	1,146
Rateable Value	£25,445
Sum represented by a penny rate	£98

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Estimated population at mid 1957 3,290

		Total	Males	Females
Live Births	Legitimate	62	33	29
	Illegitimate	2	1	1
		64	34	30

Live birth-rate per 1,000 est. pop:-

Crude Rate - 19.5 : Adjusted rate - 19.1

Still Births.		Total	Males	Females
	Legitimate	1	1	-
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
		1	1	-

Still birth-rate per 1,000 Total births.....15

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births ... ... Nil

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 31

Neo-natal mortality rate per, 1,000 live births 31

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :-

Total (all forms) Crude Rate 11.6

Adjusted Rate. 12.7

Respiratory T.B. ... ... Nil

Malignant neoplasms etc. 2.43

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate..	-	-	-

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:-

Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate..	-	-	-

Deaths (all forms)	Males	Females	Total
	21	17	38

Cause of Death during 1957

	Males	Females
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	nil	nil
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	nil	nil
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	2	1
Malignant neoplasm - lung	2	nil
Malignant neoplasm - breast	nil	1
Other malignant neoplasms	nil	1
Leukaemia	nil	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	3
Coronary disease - angina	3	nil
Other heart disease	4	4
Influenza	1	nil
Pneumonia	1	4
Bronchitis	2	nil
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	nil
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	nil
	21	17

Transferable deaths are included in the above.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Seventyseven cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, 56 of which were Measles and 14 Scarlet Fever. At the beginning of the year we had an epidemic of Measles which had been prevalent from the previous October, and it was during the first three months that the majority of the Measles cases were notified.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED & age groups

(Age periods - years)

	Total cases all ages	0--	1--	2--	3--	4--	5--	10--	15--	25 and over	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever.	14				4		9	1			nil
Whooping Cough.	4				1	1	1	1			nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	-										nil
Non-Paralytic	1					1					nil
Measles.	56	3	2	5	11	9	26				nil
Acute Pneumonia	2								2		nil

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(National Insurance Act, 1948)

No applications received.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

There is a practising Mid-wife in the district, and a nurse from Westhoughton comes into Blackrod daily.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

For infectious diseased - by arrangement with the Divisional Health Office at leigh, cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the nearest hospital on the list that can accept accommodation.

IMMUNISATION.

The Clinic at the Methodist School, Blackrod is open every Saturday morning. The doctor is in attendance on alternate Saturday mornings for the immunisation of children under school age, or over, if necessary. Children of school age are also immunised at the school.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer and a Sanitary Inspector who is also a Surveyor. A visiting nurse is provided by the County.

GENERAL HEALTH.

As previously mentioned, there was a Measles epidemic during the first three months of the year. Like many neighbouring districts Blackrod had an outbreak of Asian flu in September. This was very mild and lasted for a few weeks. Early in November, Dr. Gawne, the CountyMedical Officer of Health came to Blackrod and together with the Clerk - Mr. Hulbert; the Sanitary Inspector - Mr. Wood and myself went round the district, visited certain premises and discussed various matters.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, and the needs for this district are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.

MORTUARY.

The mortuary, situated at the Cemetery is sufficient for the needs of the district.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION, 1957.

Water Supply.

Source of Supply - Upland surface water and land springs. The watershed is situated in the Horwich Urban District and is principally moorland in character. Approximately 170 acres of land is used for the collection of water. The undertaking is adequate for the needs of the District but consideration should be given to the provision of an additional water main from the Reservoir to Blackrod to relieve an area in the higher parts of the District which, at peak periods of flow, particularly on Monday mornings, has a very low working pressure.

The position is being aggravated to some extent by a considerable increase in bulk supply to Wigan R.D.C. Parish of Haigh who are also supplying water in increased quantities to the Aspull U.D.C. whilst booster pumping plant is in operation to assist in maintaining pressure, even this plant working to capacity is not able to entirely overcome the problem.

23 samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological examination. 6 samples were taken from the supply mains and 4 were satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory, this being due, I feel, to faulty sampling procedure. 20 samples were taken from the various points in the feeder streams before the water enters the reservoir. 7 of these were satisfactory 10 unsatisfactory. Continuous chlorination is carried out as the water enters into the supply mains, the plant being automatic in operation.

Tinned lead pipe is used as a precaution against plumbo-solvent action.

The total number of houses with a piped supply of water from public mains is as follows:-

(a)	direct to houses	1146
(b)	standpipes	NIL
(c)	from private wells	1.

SEWERAGE.

Sewage is treated at two main outfalls, Nightingale Farm and at Scot Lane. The treatment consists of primary settlement of the raw sewage by passing through a series of retention tanks, the effluent is then passed over the land for final treatment before discharging to the watercourse. At Nightingale Farm the land has been prospected with a view to Open Cast Coal Workings and if open cast working should be carried out over the land it will be necessary to have other arrangements made for the treatment of the sewage at this outfall.

The arrangements at the Scot Lane outfall are not at the present time satisfactory for dealing with the amount of sewage which is discharged at this point.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Inspections are made from time to time at Shops and food preparing premises. There are the following typs of food premises in the District :-

General Grocers and provision dealers.	20
Greengrocers and fruiterers.	Nil
Fishmongers (and those selling poultry, game etc)	Nil
Meat Shops (butchers and purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe etc)	2
Bakers and confectioners.	1
Fried Fish Shops	2
Shops selling mainly sugar confectioner, minerals, ice-cream	4
Licensed premises, Clubs, Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars and similar catering establishments.	16

Number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food-Drugs Act, 1955.

	No.	No. of Visits.
Butchers (Manufacturers of Sausages)	2	10
Baker (Manufacturer of Meat Pies)	1	5

Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949/1954.

(a) Number of Dairies Registered	-	5
(b) Shops in District other than Dairies	-	10
(c) Premises outside the District	-	4

Carcasses inspected and condemned within the District.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs.	Horses
No. Killed.	1	57	3	192	46	Nil
No. Inspected.	1	57	3	192	46	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	26	Nil	100	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.	1	44	Nil	53	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	4	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	7	Nil	Nil	9	Nil
Cysticercosis.						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

All unsound meat and offals are coloured and forwarded to heat treatment plant for conversion to fertilizers. Other unsound foods are disposed of by burning where applicable.

12 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, only pre-packed ice-cream being sold. No. ice-cream is manufactured within the District.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

All premises to which these regulations apply have been visited on not less than one occasion during the year and advice has been tendered to the occupiers as to their obligations under the above regulations.

30 samples of milk have been taken from Producer and Producer Retailers and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for Bacteriological examination. All samples submitted were found to be satisfactory.

SCAVENGING OF STREETS.

The Lancashire County Council are the Highway authority for Class I and II Roads and they undertake the scavenging of these roads. Class III roads and district roads are maintained and scavenged by the District Council. During the year heavy deposits of mud have been frequently made on the roads by vehicles operating from an opencast coal site within the district.

This has necessitated additional labour to be spent on this work and a mechanical sweeper has been engaged to assist in cleaning the road surface.

Sanitary Inspection during the year.

No. of premises visited.	162
Defects or nuisances discovered	23
Notices served (informal)	23
Notices served (Statutory)	5
Legal Proceedings.	Nil

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Three inspections have been made to offices in connection with the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This service is undertaken by the District Council using direct labour. A weekly collection service is normally maintained for all domestic refuse, but there have been slight delays of a few days during periods of heavy snow fall when the labour has been engaged on snow removal. One side leading refuse vehicle is used for the purpose and it is fitted with sliding steel covers to prevent as far as practicable the spillage of refuse during collection and transmission to the tip.

The rufuse is disposed of by tipping in adisused colliery reservoir and by filling in depressions on agricultural land to render the land more workable. Standard B.S.S. $2\frac{1}{2}$ cu. ft. taper dust bins are provided to domestic premises and this is charged a ainst the rates.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no factories engaged on any process or type of trade which is scheduled under the Offensive Trade Regulations within the District.

SCHOOLS.

There are 3 Junior Schools and 1 Secondary Modern School in the District. The sanitray accommodation is adequate at all schools. It was noted in last years report that the playground surface was in an unsatisfactory state, no improvement has yet been made. Mention was also made to the lack of adequate facilities for hand washing at this school for the use of the children.

BAKEHOUSES.

One bakehouse is in service at the present time. Regular inspections are made and the conditions are satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number in District.	8
Carpet Manufacturing.	1
Rayon Processing.	1
Joiner.	1
Motor Vehicle Repairing.	2
Clogger and boot repairer.	1

RODENT CONTROL.

Visitshave been made to 206 premises and minor infestation of rats was found in 6 cases and one minor infestation of mice.

Treatment was carried out in all cases.

2 sewer treatments have been carried out during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Two public conveniences are provided by the District Council and these are incorporated in Bus Passenger Shelters and are sited at two main road junctions.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Privy Middens.	6
Closets attached to Middens.	6
No. of dry ash pits.	Nil
No. of fresh water closets.	1333
No. of waste water closets.	Nil
No. of conversions to fresh water closets.	Nil
No. of Refuse Bins.	1150
No. of premises at which moveable dust bins were substituted for fixed receptacles.	Nil
No. of Houses on water carriage system.	1139

HOUSING.

The district Council have no houses under construction at the present but authority has been received to proceed with the construction of 12 aged persons bungalows. Actual construction has been deferred for the time being owing to the high interest rates which are being charged at the present time.

40 new dwellings have been constructed by private enterprise.

5 unfit housew have been demolished.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

The demolition of all unfit houses, the provision of accommodation for the families to be displaced by demolition of unfit houses. The improvement of structurall sound houses but lacking in amenities.

The cleaning up of sites of demolished houses by redevelopment of the areas or levelling and returning to agricultural use.

The improvement to the sewage disposal arrangements.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and vaulued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

L. UNSWORTH.

M.O.H.

Dalton House,
Westhoughton.
28th May, 1958.